

VII. WESTERN BOUNDARY OF BINGHAM COUNTY

At intermittent points along the western edge of the county, starting south and west of Aberdeen, and following the developed land north to Taber, are residences vulnerable to prairie, or wild land fires. These fires are usually started as a result of lightning from thunderstorms and can be ignited miles away from dwellings or farm structures. The prevailing wind is primarily from the southwest and will carry fires into these areas. These homes are located in proximity ¼ mile to several miles apart. The distance from each other presents a situation needing to be addressed individually. Many of these farmers have taken steps to protect their property by disking a fire barrier on the land next to the wild land fuel. These have only been partly successful, as a raging fire can leap a wide distance. In addition, the danger from smoke inhalation is severe in these situations.

The Western Boundary of Bingham County will be serviced by the Blackfoot Fire District.

MITIGATION ACTIONS

1. Fire lanes could be installed and maintained by a variety of means. Disking and or tilling an area not less than 200 feet wide would stop the majority of fires at the property line. One problem encountered with this approach is the proliferation of weeds after the soil is disturbed, requiring constant maintenance.
2. Another approach would be the seeding of fire-resistant plants or grasses for the same, or more distance. The big benefit here would be a one-time effort of removing fuel, preparing the ground and seeding.
3. Fire-wise education is also needed here. Some farmers have never had a fire problem and may not think a danger exists. This approach would likely call for a house-to-house distribution of literature.